

REMARKS1. Introduction

Applicant notes with appreciation the finding of allowable subject matter recited in claims 6-10 and 15. To expedite prosecution of the present patent application, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 6 that was considered allowable; amended claim 11 includes the subject matter of claim 15 that was considered allowable; and new claim 21 includes the subject matter of claim 6 that was considered allowable. As a result, Applicant respectfully contends that claims 1 and 11 as amended and new claim 21 defines an invention suitable for patent protection.

2. Rejections under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph

In the Office action, claims 1 and 6-10 were rejected as allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regarded as the invention. To that end, claims 1 and 6-10 have been amended to ensure that the same comport with the requirements set forth in 35 USC § 112, second paragraph.

3. Amendments to the Drawings

In the Office action, Fig. 1 and 9 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(o) as having no descriptive legends for particular elements. Therefore, Fig. 1 and 9 have been amended to overcome the objection, and are as follows: Fig. 1 has been amended to include a descriptive legend for element 14; Fig. 9 has been amended to include a descriptive legend for elements 502, 508, 510, 512, 516, and 522.

Applicant has included a separate letter to the Chief Draftsperson showing the changes in red and requesting that the

changes be entered. No new matter has been introduced by way of these amendments as the same merely harmonizes the drawings with the written specification. Based upon these amendments, Applicants respectfully contend that the patent application comports with the practices and procedures of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

4. Dependent Claims

Considering that the dependent claims include all of the features of the independent claims from which they depend, the dependent claims are patentable to the extent that the independent claims are patentable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully contends that the dependent claims are suitable for patent protection.

Applicants respectfully request examination in view of the remarks. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION, Alexandria, VA 22313

Signed: Alexis Sheffield

Typed Name: Alexis Sheffield
Date: October 20, 2003

Respectfully Submitted,



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